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## **GSA URBAN CENTER NEWS**

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*"When we build let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for  
present delight, nor  
for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us  
for."*

*-- John Ruskin*

*To Our Federal and Community Partners:*

*This regular ENews is designed to keep you informed about GSA's projects and activities across the country. We invite you to share in our efforts and we encourage your feedback and input. Thanks for your support.*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **GSA Partners with City of Eugene on Redevelopment Plan**

GSA is working with the City of Eugene, Oregon, on a redevelopment plan for an eight-acre industrial site adjacent to downtown. A new U.S. Courthouse, designed by Thom Mayne, will be the centerpiece of the redevelopment of the former Chiquita Cannery site. In addition to reuse of the site, the city hopes to use this opportunity to connect the downtown core to the nearby Willamette River, which is currently inaccessible from downtown. The plan will propose an urban framework for the area and also explore the viability of "daylighting" a canal that runs through a culvert on the site. By exposing the millrace and integrating it into a civic plaza, GSA and the city could partner on an urban amenity that would help to reknit the downtown fabric and create a secure perimeter for a portion of the courthouse site. For more information, contact John Merritt on (503) 326-3984.

### **Ground Broken for Urban Development Project in Utica, New York**

GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region held a ground-breaking ceremony on April 18 for an urban park adjacent to the Alexander Pirnie Federal Building in Utica, New York. Steve Ruggiero, the Region's Acting Regional Administrator, and Frank Giblin of the Center for Development were joined at the ceremony by U.S. Representative Sherwood Boehlert and Utica Mayor Timothy Julian. GSA is partnering with Utica's local urban development program to revitalize the city park--which serves as the federal building's front yard. GSA has leased the site from the city for \$1 a year for 20 years, with four 20-year renewal options. The improvements include a water feature, a cobblestone plaza, a walking path, seating, trees, and increased exterior lighting--a security enhancement for the federal facility. The work should be completed in July. For more information, contact Frank Santella on (315) 448-0923.



### **Northwest/Arctic Region Rolls Out New Urban Initiative**

GSA's Northwest/Arctic Region recently launched an urban development Advocate Committee. Center for Development field officers John Merritt and Stan Catchpole are working to incorporate the urban development mission - "To leverage GSA's federal real estate actions in ways that meet customer agency needs, manage our business effectively, and support community development goals" - into capital projects and day-to-day management of the region's federal buildings. The Committee is meeting regularly and is well on its way to developing short- and long-term action items. For more information, contact John Merritt on (503) 326-3984 or Stan Catchpole on (253) 931-7865.

### **GSA Presents Denver Federal District at AIA Conference**

On May 18th, at the American Institute of Architects' 2001 National Convention, GSA's Rocky Mountain Region led a panel discussion on the Denver Federal District. GSA property manager Tim Horne moderated the panel with Denver city councilwoman Susan Barnes-Gelt and representatives from GSA's design team, landscape architect Eric Anderson of Civitas, and architect Blake Mourer of Gensler. The convention's theme, "Leaders and Partners in Creating Community", was fitting. The group was asked about its unique approach to developing an action-oriented master plan for the federal district—one that emphasizes quick change, local partnerships, and opportunistic investment. Rather than a more common all-or-nothing approach that requires heavy upfront investment, the group discussed their emphasis on changes they can make right away with existing funds and plans for changes that they can make later. They explained how this "kit-of-parts" approach allows GSA and its partners to make incremental changes when key opportunities (and funds) arise. Quick changes fit into a larger plan and generate momentum for bigger changes down the road. The panel also discussed how partnerships with a wide range of organizations—including teachers and students from a local middle school, a design studio at the University of Colorado at Denver, local arts organizations, the City of Denver, Rapid Transit Denver, and others—allow the team to comprehensively combine resources and expertise to address mutual interests at all levels. For more information, contact Janet Preisser on (303) 236-7131, ext. 248.

### **Greater Southwest Region and City of Fort Worth Sign Agreement**

On June 19th, the city council of Fort Worth, Texas, unanimously approved an agreement with GSA that will jump start city-lead improvements near the Lanham Federal Building downtown. After two years of collaboration between GSA, the city, and other local partners, the license agreement will allow GSA's Greater Southwest Region to make improvements to "Federal Plaza", a barren parcel of city-owned property at the entrance of the federal building. When completed, the improved plaza will establish the first of five parcels of land where the city intends to recreate "Hyde Park", a historic downtown public square that existed more than a century ago. In supporting the city's efforts, GSA anticipates returns for federal employees, visitors, and the neighborhood, as well as enhanced marketability of space in the Lanham Building, improved customer satisfaction, and increased employee productivity. The City sees GSA's action as a crucial first step to support its larger efforts for Hyde Park. In the meantime, the agreement serves as a model for cooperative ventures between GSA and local governments. For more information, contact Harold Hebert on (817) 978-4660.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Update - Economic Study in Three Cities**

GSA, the National Main Street Center, and local downtown management organizations in Athens, GA; Baltimore, MD; and Springfield, IL, have completed the survey portion of a study they are undertaking to determine the impact of the federal presence on communities.



The five different surveys are designed to gather information from federal workers, downtown visitors, federal building managers, and federal agencies, and on the downtown areas covered by the Athens Downtown Development Authority, the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, and Downtown Springfield, Inc. Next steps are to analyze the survey responses, finalize the survey tools for nationwide applicability, and issue a report. For more information, contact Frank Giblin on (202) 501-1856.

[Please email questions, comments and contributions to Edward Giefer at [edward.giefer@gsa.gov](mailto:edward.giefer@gsa.gov) or call (202) 219-2355.]